

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

**Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA), Cllr Owen Wilkins (OW), Cllr Emma Guerrero (EG) and Cllr A. Sharp (AS)

**Clerk:** Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

**Members of Public Present:** GD, MC

**1/25 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received Cllr Paul Jameson (PJ)

**2/25 Declarations of Interest:** None

**3/25 Public Questions**

No questions were submitted.

**4/25 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved:  
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

**5/25 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.**

None that were not on the agenda.

**6/25 Gilsland Matters** reports and resolutions arising.

**6/25.01 Councillor Vacancy**

The co-opting of Owen Wilkins to the Parish Council was approved unanimously and Cllr SS formally welcomed him to the Parish Council. As Cllr Paul Jameson had moved out of the area, he would like to stand down so it was agreed that David Keen would be asked if he would consider being co-opted.

**6/25.02 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.**

The steps to the slide were causing concern as the fine gravel used between the wooden risers was being picked up by the children and put down the slide. Batson Groundcare Ltd, who put in the steps, will be asked to look at the problem and remedy it. It was suggested that some matting might be used to keep the gravel in place.

**Action: SH to contact Batson about the work**

The toddler seats on the swings were repaired by Sean Glenton but no invoice has been received for the work. Cllr JA reported that cleaning of the equipment would be carried out over the next few weeks.

The children were asked what they would like in the playground, and they requested a football goal for the hard area. It was agreed to investigate what is available and Cllr AS said he would look into sources of finance for the project. The Community Chest might have funds available, and the Karbon Fund might also be an option. Cllr AS also offered to contribute to the cost of the goal posts.

**Action: Cllr JA to research and price goal posts**

SH will continue to produce a checklist of equipment to be checked so that any damage can be reported.

Cllr JA reported that the steps to the tunnel towards the Poltross were getting worn and might be dangerous. It was agreed to carry out a visual inspection at the end of the meeting. Following a visual inspection, it was decided that the condition of the steps was acceptable condition and no further action was necessary.

Cllr SS reported that Station House was now on the market. She raised this because the boundary between Station House and the play park is not consistently obvious on the ground. It was agreed with the late owner to rectify this after the shrub was cleared but this didn't happen.

**6/25.03 Crammel Rigg Harvesting**

The public meeting was held with Luke Wheeler from Tilhill early in May to discuss the harvesting at Crammel Rigg and a report will be published in the Village magazine. The company are working with the residents to make the process as smooth as possible.

**6/25.04 Riversdale Lane**

Residents from Riversdale have complained that Fibrus damaged the lane during their broadband work and topsoil was bought to put some wildflowers on the verges. Steve Whyler has formally complained to Fibrus so it was decided that this work would not go ahead. The invoice for the topsoil will be sent to SH for payment.

**Action: Cllr EG to send invoice to SH for payment**

**6/25.05 Samson Inn update**

The Gilsland Community Benefit Society Ltd has successfully secured the money for the purchase of the Samson Inn. Now the formal reconciliation is taking place to confirm all stakeholders and work towards the formal offer. There are now five people interested in the tenancy.

**7/25 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.****7/25.01 Village Green Status**

Cllr SS reported that Amanda Drago had collected some letters about the Play Area dan Village Green during her village meeting and these will be used to put together applications for Village Green Status. These can then be sent to Open Spaces for advice on what to do next.

**Action: SH to put together application forms**

Cllr SS told the meeting that the benches for Longbyre were not yet painted but would be done over the next few weeks and put into place on the Green. The grass cutting and strimming have been done and the Village Green is looking good.

**8/25 Highways**

**8/25.01** Cllr AS reported that the signs at Longbyre for the walkers will be put up in the next few months and that there had been no further reports of large lorries getting stuck at the Bridge.

He had attended a meeting about St Mary's Church, where it was announced that it will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Cllr AS expressed his concern about the lack of interest in broadband from the residents of Thirlwall Parish – most of the people who attended the meeting with Fibrus were from Upper Denton and Waterhead Parishes. He wondered how the Parish Council could best disseminate the information with them. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

MC wondered if the sign for Crammel Lin has been removed but Cllr SS was aware that it had fallen down and needed to be returned. She agreed to organise for it to be reinstated by Mike Cornish at Wardrew.

**Action: Cllr SS to organise for sign to be reinstated**

Cllr AS mentioned some potential funding available for bus services in Northumberland. He wondered if it would be worth trying to get Gilsland included in the service. It was suggested that Dan Newrick be asked about the bus services available from Cumberland before taking any actions. SH was asked to discuss the matter at the Upper Denton and Waterhead Parish meeting and report back.

**Action: SH to discuss the matter with Dan Newrick**

**9/25 Planning Applications**

None

**10/25 Financial and Administration Matters**

**10/25.01** Income and expenditure as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – Appendix 1

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**10/25.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 – Appendix 2**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**10/25.03 AGAR 2024-2025**

The financial information for the AGAR and annual audit was ready to be approved and signed by the Chair.

**10/25.04 Budget 2024-2025**

Cllr SS introduced and explained the budget for 2024-2025.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**10/25.05 Approval of Clerk's pay and expenses**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**10/25.06 Change of Insurers**

SH informed the councillors that the cost of insurance with Clear Councils (formerly BHIB) had gone up significantly since last year and that she had received a more competitive quote from Zurich Town, Parish and Community Council Team. It was agreed to change the insurers to Zurich.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**11/25 Correspondence**

**11/25.01 Update from SOS**

The email received from Save our Samson was read to the councillors.

**12/25 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council**

**12/25.01 Vacancy for representative on the Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Committee**

Due to the recent and future changes on the Parish Council, it was decided that a representative would be appointed at the next meeting.

Cllr AS explained that the representative would be asked to attend a meeting every 6 weeks, to be hosted by the Parish Councils on the Committee. The next meeting will be held in Featherstone on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024. There was nothing to report from the last meeting.

**13/25 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:**

None

**14/25 Dates and time of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall.**

**ALL WELCOME** (please keep an eye on Thirlwall PC website: [www.visitgilsland.org.uk](http://www.visitgilsland.org.uk))

**Future meetings:**

- Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm

**Meeting concluded at 9.00pm following a walk around the Play area and an inspection of the steps.**